

THE GUILD OF ST. BARNABAS

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GUILD OF ST. BARNABAS

IN this, our first appearance in THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING, we may reach many who know little or nothing of what the Guild of St. Barnabas is; we therefore subjoin the following short history and explanation.

WHAT IS IT? AND WHY?

There is no work for women more noble and ennobling than the work of a Christian nurse. Of course, there are many trials and temptations peculiar to such work.

In these sentences is contained the reason for the establishment of the Guild of St. Barnabas: to help the nurses to realize the greatness of their calling, to maintain a high standard in it, and also to enable them more surely to overcome the temptations incident to their position. These are our aims. To attain these objects it is most important and helpful that there should be mutual love and sympathy, mutual conference and companionship, and association with others outside the profession who are willing to lend their sympathy and aid. The nurses have to endure much loneliness and isolation, whether they are engaged in private houses, in the training-school, or are off duty for a time. For many of them there is no home life, and little comfort in the lodgings-rooms to which they return after a term of nursing. The community in general does not appreciate the anxieties, responsibilities, and trials of the nurse's life, and it is well to have those associated with her who will help to spread abroad information regarding her work, and thus enlist a friendly interest. The Guild of St. Barnabas, by associating nurses together, and with them other women as friends, and also by engaging the personal interest of physicians and clergymen in their behalf, aims to supply some of the comfort and power obtained by association, and thus to be helpful to the nurse, whether on duty or not.

WHAT IS ITS HISTORY?

The Guild of St. Barnabas was founded about fifteen years ago by a clergyman of Boston. Like everything else that is good in this world, it had a small beginning; but it has grown steadily, and much more rapidly than its friends at the outset had any cause to expect. Now there are branches in many of our large cities with an aggregate membership of about eighteen hundred, while every month brings additions to our numbers. So that the nurse who wears the badge of the Guild of St. Barnabas will find friends in many places, even on the Pacific coast, and if the guild increases, as we believe it will, this friendly bond will include thousands interested in the same blessed work of caring for the sick.

WHAT ARE ITS METHODS?

Each branch has at least a monthly meeting, at which, after a short service for spiritual benefit, there is a conference or business meeting, followed by an hour devoted to social intercourse and refreshments. The duty of the associate members is to know and visit the nurses; they also manage that part of the business of the guild which the close occupation of the nurses prevents them from undertaking. Everyone belonging to the guild is to remember the nurse's work in daily prayer, and to try in every way to be helpful to the rest.

The dues are only these: an entrance fee of one dollar and an annual fee of one dollar; that is, two dollars the first year, and after that one dollar annually. These receipts provide for badges, printing, manuals, and other necessary expenses of the guild.

The medal is of bronze, bearing the motto, "Blessed are the merciful." The guild, originated and officered by Episcopalian, is open to all nurses, whether graduated or in course of training.

In some of the branches there is a Sick-Relief Association, which has proved very helpful. It is a mutual-aid society conducted on purely business principles, and is divided into two classes. Those of the first class pay fifty cents a month and receive ten dollars a week during the first four weeks of illness in the year (the first week of illness is not included) and five dollars during the last six; i.e., a member receives seventy dollars in the year, ten weeks being the limit allowed. The second class pay twenty-five cents per month and receive half the above amount in the same way—five dollars for the first four weeks, two dollars and fifty cents for the last six.

Applicants for the guild are proposed at any meeting by a member or associate, and, if there is no objection, are admitted to membership at the next meeting.

IN CONCLUSION.

It will thus be seen that the work of the guild is of two kinds, *religious* and *social*. It is intended to help the nurse to remember her high calling as a follower of Him who "went about doing good," a sharer in His work of ministry and love. It is intended to encourage her to continue bravely in the work of comforting, healing, saving, giving rest, and manifesting in herself that sweetness, patience, and unwearying labor which were characteristics of His earthly life. It is her privilege also to be a sharer in His life of toil and sorrow.

The name of St. Barnabas is chosen for the guild because he followed in the footsteps of his Master, and those who minister to the sick and suffering are rightly reckoned as the companions of the "Son of Consolation." The guild prayer daily asks for the same spirit of consolation, "that by gentleness and love, in faithfulness and patience, we may serve God's afflicted children."

THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL COUNCIL OF THE GUILD OF ST. BARNABAS

MINUTES

CHICAGO, ILL., November 14, 1901.

The Fifteenth Annual Council of the Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses was held at Trinity Parish House at nine-thirty A.M., the chaplain-general presiding. The roll of the branches was called, and the following delegates answered to their names: Boston, Miss Harries; New York, Mrs. Gardner; Philadelphia, Miss Fulmer; Pittsburg, Mrs. Blackford, Miss Hallock; St. Louis, Mrs. Gibson, Miss Thompson; Hartford, Miss Pilgarth; Orange, Mrs. J. H. Kidder, Miss Coomber; Grace Church, Chicago, Miss Collins, Miss Reeme; Trinity Church, Chicago, the Rev. Dr. Wilson, Dr. Clagget, Miss Lee; Epiphany Church, Chicago, Dr. Hackett; Providence, the Rev. Mr. Dana, Miss Alice Gifford; Syracuse, Mrs. Hinman; Newport, Miss E. B. Smith; Utica, Miss McLannen.

The general secretary read her report. The Rev. Dr. Wilson read the report of the general treasurer. Then the chaplain-general read his report. He also read a memorial from Trinity Branch, Chicago, and his reply to it; also a memorial from the Washington Branch. He said there had likewise been received several letters, some of them rather spicy, all of these concerning the *News-Letter*. The consideration of these communications was made the order of the day after the routine business.

The report of the editor of the *News-Letter* was then read by the Rev. Dr. Wilson.

Then followed the reading of the report of the International Congress of Nurses at Buffalo.

Two letters of resignation, one from Mrs. Kidder, general secretary, and the other from Miss Tippet, editor of the *News-Letter*, were presented by the chairman.

Reports of the branches were read as follows: From Boston, Brooklyn, New York, Philadelphia, Utica, Hartford, Orange, San Francisco, New Haven, Duluth, Washington, Fall River, Newark, Chicago, Grace Church Branch and Trinity Branch, Providence, Pittsburg, Syracuse, and Newport; letters from St. Louis, Minneapolis, and Sandusky.

A communication from the Rev. Dr. Hart, chaplain of the Hartford Branch, was read by the bishop. Asheville wrote that they had no report, but hope to send a good one next year.

There being no unfinished business, the chairman announced the next thing in order, the election of officers.

The Rev. Dr. Wilson moved that the secretary be instructed to cast one ballot for the Rt. Rev. Cortlandt Whitehead for chaplain-general, which motion was unanimously carried. The secretary cast the ballot and Bishop Whitehead was declared elected.

A committee had been appointed to make nominations for the office of secretary-general. The report of the chairman of that committee, the Rev. H. T. Scudder, was then read, nominating three persons, viz., Mrs. Howe, of Orange; Miss Lee, of Chicago; and Miss Reeme, of Chicago. The delegates prepared and deposited their ballots, each branch having one vote. The votes being counted, Mrs. W. R. Howe was found to have received the greatest number, and was elected general secretary.

A proposition from THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING was then read.

This JOURNAL offered to give two or more pages of its space each month for the news of the guild and allow the guild to have its own editor for that department of the JOURNAL.

The advisability of giving up the *News-Letter* was then discussed, several of the members speaking at length on the subject. It was argued that there were fifty-six training-schools, good, bad, and indifferent, in Chicago, and thirty thousand trained nurses in the United States, and out of this number fifteen hundred only belong to the Guild of St. Barnabas. The objects of the guild ought to be made known to nurses outside of those who belong to it. All nursing organizations with the exception of the guild are represented in THE AMERICAN JOURNAL, and it cannot hurt the clerical or medical associates to know something of the progress of the nurses' work and their duties.

It also appeared that THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING is edited by nurses and subscribed to by doctors and nurses. It was maintained that there is nothing compulsory as to subscriptions about the offer made, as regards either individuals or as regards the guild as a body, simply an offer to give two or more pages each month for the news of the guild. The proposition is that we will as a favor to them, and for mutual advantage, make use of certain parts of the JOURNAL. By accepting the offer the guild would be relieved of one thousand dollars' expense annually, now required for printing the *News-Letter*. It was suggested that each branch of the guild itself provide copies for the chaplain and secretary and treasurer of the branch, who, after reading the JOURNAL, might lend it to the guild members; that is, that each branch be responsible for three copies. Also subscribers should be sought for the JOURNAL. If St. Barnabas Guild is to be represented in that magazine, a large number will undoubtedly subscribe for it.

The following question was then put to vote: Shall the *News-Letter* be continued in its present shape and size? which was decided in the negative.

The Rev. Mr. Dana moved that the proposition of THE AMERICAN JOURNAL be accepted from January 1, 1902, which motion was unanimously carried.

It was moved and seconded that a committee to arrange the details with THE AMERICAN JOURNAL be appointed, which motion was unanimously carried.

The committee appointed for this purpose was as follows: Miss Fulmer, Miss Tippet, Miss Reeme, and Mrs. Gardner, with the assistance of Dr. Hackett and Mrs. Howe.

The next thing in order was the election of an editor. Miss Tippet, being nominated as editor, was unanimously elected. Miss Tippet being unable to serve, Miss S. M. Durand has been appointed to the position.

Miss Jack being nominated for treasurer, it was voted that the secretary cast a ballot for her. The secretary cast the ballot and Miss Jack was elected.

It was suggested that a home, to be a refuge for nurses in old age, would be a noble work for the guild to undertake. There was a short discussion of the matter, but no action taken.

Luncheon was then announced, and the council took a recess until two o'clock.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The meeting was called to order at two-fifteen.

The Rev. Dr. Wilson moved to reconsider the vote by which the publication of the *News-Letter* was stopped, which motion, being put to vote by the chairman, was lost.

The consideration of the suggestion as to a home for nurses was resumed, and further discussion followed.

The Rev. Dr. Wilson moved to appoint a committee to consider the matter of some united benevolent work on the part of the guild, and report thereon at the next council, which was unanimously carried. The following committee was appointed: The Rev. Dr. Wilson, of Chicago; the Rev. Mr. Dana, of Providence; Miss Pearson, of Orange; Miss Reeme, of Chicago, and Miss Beach, of Hartford.

The advisability of changing the time of the meeting of the council, or rather the frequency of meeting, was next taken up, and it was decided that no change was desirable.

An invitation from the Philadelphia Branch to hold the next annual council in that city was announced.

It was moved that the invitation from the Philadelphia Branch be accepted, which was unanimously carried.

Moved and seconded that the "Directory of Nurses" cease with the new arrangement, when the *News-Letter* goes into THE AMERICAN JOURNAL, which motion was unanimously carried.

It was moved that the thanks of this body be extended to Trinity and Grace Church and Epiphany Branches for their kindness to the members of the council on this occasion, and the chairman made an address of gratitude. He then asked for a rising vote from all those in favor of thanking the good people for their kindness, and the entire visiting assemblage stood.

The motion was then made and seconded that the minutes of this council meeting be sent to THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING for publication, which motion, on being put by the chairman, was unanimously carried. After which, on motion, the council adjourned.

MATILDA F. KIDDER,
General Secretary.

NEW YORK CITY

THE guild met for its first regular service Thursday evening, November 21, in the Church of the Heavenly Rest. There was a goodly attendance, and to our surprise (and our good chaplain gives us many surprises) we listened to a splendid address by Dr. Star, of the University of the South. After the meeting we retired to the Parish House, where Dr. and Mrs. Morgan supplied refreshments, and where we listened with great interest to the report of Mrs. Gardener, our secretary and delegate to the council in Chicago.

Our winter work will be devoted to the sick benefit fund, and we must all strive hard to enlarge that fund.

SYRACUSE

As we wish to be among the first branches to be represented in our new organ, we will send in a communication this month, although we have nothing at all startling to record.

Our meetings began in September, after the usual summer vacation, and have been held regularly ever since. At the last one a very interesting report of the General Conference in Chicago was read, written by one of our associates, who had been sent as a delegate. Our sick-benefit fund is slowly increasing, and

some of it has already been made of use in a case of illness. An entertainment is being planned for the holidays to augment our financial resources.

We are proud to report that two of our members have accepted positions as superintendents in institutions during the past year.

We wish to express our sincere good wishes for the beginning of this editorial venture, and shall look forward with pleasure to seeing our guild take its place in the departments of so valuable a periodical.

BOSTON

THE Boston Branch met at St. Andrew's, Chambers Street, on the evening of November 27, and although it was the day before Thanksgiving, there was a good attendance. Mr. Brendt presided, and after the interesting report of the council was read by the delegate and the business of the evening was transacted spoke of his coming departure for the Philippines. Miss Lowndes, on behalf of the members, spoke warmly of all our chaplain had been to us and done for us in the many years of his ministry, and moved a vote of thanks, which was unanimously carried.

Mr. Brendt cordially invited us to hold the annual Christmas gathering at St. Stephen's, as in previous years.

A committee was also appointed to nominate a new chaplain, to report at the next meeting before submitting the name or names to the chaplain general.

At the service Mr. Brendt dwelt particularly in his address on the duty of Thanksgiving, and said: "At this, our National Thanksgiving, we should forget our small personal grievances and sorrows, large as they might appear to us, and not allow them to obscure the light of the blessings for which we as a nation have to thank God."

The social hour, after we returned to the Parish House, was bright with conversation.

PROVIDENCE, R. I.

THE regular monthly meeting of St. Barnabas Guild was held at St. Stephen's Church on Thursday afternoon, December 5, at three o'clock. The "Guild Office" was said in the chapel and one active member was admitted by the chaplain. The business meeting was held in the St. Barnabas Guild room in the Parish House. Plans were discussed for raising money, and it was decided to give a musical early in February. A committee was appointed to arrange for it.

The Committee on the St. Barnabas Guild Free Directory reported that the directory was opened at 38 Benevolent Street with an encouraging number of nurses already registered.

A report of the council at Chicago was read by Miss Gifford, and the chaplain gave a very interesting account of his trip to Chicago and of the doings of the convention.

After the business meeting a dainty tea, provided by one of the associates, was served.

TRINITY BRANCH, CHICAGO

THE monthly meeting of the Guild of St. Barnabas was held in Trinity Parish House December 2. There were about twenty-five present. The Rev. N. White Wilson, chaplain of the branch, presided. Eight new members were proposed.

It is very gratifying to know that Trinity Branch is quietly but steadily increasing. Reports were read by the secretary and treasurer; the latter report showed a balance of almost twenty dollars from the council fund, which was turned over to the sick-benefit bank account. It was decided that hereafter some kind of a lecture on medicine, art, or literature should be given for the benefit and enjoyment of the guild members on the first Monday in each month. A committee was appointed to arrange the programme. A very hearty vote of thanks was given to Mrs. John Rouse, Miss Lee, Dr. Claggett, and the other members of the committee for the very efficient work done by them in entertaining the General Council. We are also most grateful to the associate members for their hearty coöperation in the work. Refreshments were then served, after which the meeting adjourned.

ORANGE, N. J.

THE word has gone forth, and we are no longer to be enfolded in our little yellow wrapper, but to become incorporated in the "wearing of the green." Knowing the supreme excellence of THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING, we are well content to be embodied among so much worth, trusting that this may be an added means of extending its usefulness. Therefore we wish to every reader and every member of the staff a very happy and prosperous New Year. The regular meeting in November was held on the 21st at the Training-School, at eight P.M. In the absence of the chaplain the service was read and the address made by the rector's assistant of Grace Church, Orange, the Rev. Oscar Moore, Jr. He also presided at the business meeting which immediately followed. A very interesting report was brought back from Chicago and read for the occasion by the associate member, the active member giving us many interesting details in a less formal manner. The expenses for the delegates were voted on and ordered to be paid, so far as the treasury permitted. It was ascertained that the fund was sufficient to meet the demand. A small sum was voted on to provide materials for the sewing parties now being held on the first Thursday in each month for the fair we expect to elaborate in May. Donations of materials and finished work are now the order of the day, and each must try to bear her own share in this important work, admitting of no excuse, for we all may need to share the sick fund, which it is to augment; or if we will make no use of it ourselves, then let us help those who need it more.

We very much appreciate the compliment paid to our branch by the election for general secretary of our local secretary, and we feel sure that all will learn to know her worth, even as we do.

